

**STERILIZATION SYSTEM EMPLOYING A SWITCHING MODULE  
ADAPTED TO PULSATE THE LOW FREQUENCY POWER APPLIED TO A  
PLASMA**

Abstract of the Disclosure

5           A sterilization system and method applies low frequency power to a plasma within a vacuum chamber to remove gas or vapor species from an article. The sterilization system includes a switching module adapted to pulsate the low frequency power applied to the plasma and a low frequency power feedback control system for controllably adjusting the low frequency power applied to the plasma. A power  
10 monitor is adapted to produce a first signal indicative of the low frequency power applied to the plasma within the vacuum chamber. A power control module is adapted to produce a second signal in response to the first signal from the power monitor, and a power controller is adapted to adjust, in response to the second signal, the low frequency power applied to the plasma to maintain a substantially stable average low  
15 frequency power applied to the plasma while the article is being processed.

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